

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:MGJONES/NH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS STATE 094637

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PK

SUBJECT: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION

1. CHARLES GROESBEEK OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONTACTED DEPARTMENT TO ASK ASSISTANCE IN CLEARANCE OF UPCOMING MITRE EXPEDITION IN KARAKORAMS. HE HAS SUBMITTED NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION VIA PAK EMBASSY HERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, BUT IS UNEASY SINCE DEPARTURE PLANNED FOR MAY 10. DENNIS HENNIK WILL LEAD TEAM OF 7 CLIMBERS AND GROESBEEK WILL HEAD 12-MAN FILM CREW WHICH MAKING HALF-HOUR DOCUMENTARY FOR PUBLIC TV NETWORK. FILM WILL ALSO FOCUS ON BALTI TRIBES AND BALTORO GLACIER REGION.

2. IN ADDITION TO BASIC PERMISSION FOR CLIMB, GROUP HAS REQUESTED ASSIGNMENT OF TWO PAK LIAISON OFFICERS (EXTRA ONE IS FOR FILM CREW WHICH HOPES OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF CLIMBERS) AND HAS ASKED FOR EXTENSION OF PERMIT TO COVER THREE OTHER PEAKS. FYI GROESBEEK UNDERSTANDS GOP NORMALLY WOULD ONLY GRANT SINGLE-PEAK PERMIT TO FOREIGN TEAMS, BUT BELIEVES THIS CAN BE BROADENED IF PAK CLIMBERS INCLUDED, WHICH GROESBEEK HAPPY TO DO. END FYI.

3. APPRECIATE EMBASSY CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE GOP OFFICIALS IN ORDER ASSURE DOCUMENTATION OKAY AND TWO POINTS ABOVE
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ARE UNDERSTOOD. MITRE TEAM HAS BEEN TOLD BY WHITAKER K-2
GROUP NOW IN PAKISTAN (WITH WHOM THEY ARE COOPERATING) THAT
BRIG. SAFDAR BUTT (WITH MOD?) IS IN CHARGE OF MOUNTAINEER-
ING LIAISON, BUT IS UNSURE OF WHAT OTHER GOP AUTHORITIES
ARE PROCESSING DOCUMENTATION. KISSINGER

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